

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 DLOS-06
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O R 011325Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3681
8,*9 47(943)/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 504
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PLOS EFIS KS UR US
SUBJECT: USSR ATTITUDE TOWARD CONTINUED ROK FISHING IN KAMCHATKA
WATERS

REF: (A) STATE 21101, (B) SEOUL 798, (C) STATE 18226,
(D) SEOUL 774, (E) SEOUL 303, (F) 76 SEOUL 9925.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE SOVIETS HAVE OFFICIALLY RESUSED
TO RECEIVE US TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF ROK FISHING
WITHIN THE USSR'S 220-MILE FISHERIES CONSERVATION ZONE,
CITING THEIR " PRINCIPLED POSITION" REGARDING CONTACTS
WITH THE ROKG. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF CALLED KHABIROV OF THE SOVIET MFA'S TREATY
AND LEGAL DIVISION ON JANUARY 30 TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT
TO DISCUSS THE ROK FISHING QUESTION. KHABIROV CALLED
BACK ON FEBRUARY 1 TO SAY FLATLY THAT THE SOVIET GOVERN-
MENT COULD NOT DISCUSS THIS MATTER EITHER DIRECTLY WITH
THE ROKG OR WITH THE USG BECAUSE OF ITS (MOSCOW'S)
" PRINCIPLED POSITION" WITH REGARD TO SOUTH KOREA.
EMBOFF SOUGHT TO CLARIFY WHAT THIS MEANT IN TERMS OF
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CONTINUED ROK FISHING IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT HAD LONG
BEEN ACTIVE. KHABIROV DID NOT RESPOND EXCEPT TO REITERATE
THAT THE "WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT"
PRECLUDED TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. EMBOFF THEN ASKED WHEN THE SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT
OF ITS 200-MILE ZONE WOULD TAKE EFFECT, TO WHICH KHABIROV

REPLIED THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN SET, BUT HAT IT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE SUPREME SOVIET'S DECEMBER 10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZONE. EMBOFF AGAIN PRESSED FOR SOME INDICATION OF HOW SOON THE ZONE WOULD BE ENFORCED AND WHAT THOSE COUNTRIES NOT HAVING RELTIONS WITH MOSCOW SHOULD DO TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF THEIR TRADITIONAL FISHING. KHABIROV REPLIED BY REPEATING THAT THE DATE OF BRINGING THE ZONE INTO EFFECT WOULD BE NOTIFIED IN DUE COURSE, BUT THAT THE "PRINCIPLED POSITION" OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PRECLUDED ANY DISCUSSION CONCERNING SOUTH KOREA.

4. COMMENT. IT WAS CLEAR FROM KHABIROV'S STATEMENT, AND FROM HIS UNWILLINGNESS EVEN TO DISCUSS THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM, THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO SAY AND HOW TO SAY IT. WE ASSUME THAT THIS MEANS THAT ANY ATTEMPT ON OUR PART TO BROACH THE QUESTION OFFICIALLY WILL MEET WITH A SIMILAR RESPONSE. WE WILL, HOWEVER, SEEK TO SOUND OUT THE SOVIETS INFORMALLY ON HOW THEY PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF ENFORCEMENT, AND TO ARGUE THAT THE ROK DESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE FISHING IN THE WATERS NEAR KAMCHATKA.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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